



Urban District of Ashington

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# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE  
MEDICAL OFFICER  
OF HEALTH



and the

Senior Public Health Inspector

for the Year

1960



**ANNUAL REPORT**  
**of the**  
**MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH**  
**FOR 1960**

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To the Chairman and Members of the Urban District Council of Ashington.

Mr. Chairman and Councillors,

I beg to present to you, my report, together with that of the Chief Public Health Inspector, for the year 1960.

In 1960, there was an increase of 29 in the number of births and of 27 in the number of deaths compared with 1959 and, consequently, the standard birth rate rose from 15.84 to 16.89 and the standard death rate from 13.12 to 14.38 per 1,000. The corresponding figures for England and Wales were 17.1 and 11.5.

There was a decline in the still-birth rate which was lower than the national average, but, unfortunately, the infantile mortality rate rose to 30.93 per 1,000 live births which compares unfavourably with the rate of 21.7 for the whole of England and Wales. The neonatal mortality rate was 22.68 per 1,000 births.

Out of the total of 314 deaths, 154 or 49% occurred in persons aged 70 years or over and 53 or 16.9% in persons aged 80 years or over.

It is satisfactory to be able to report that no death during the year was attributed to any form of tuberculosis. Notifications of this disease, however, continued at much the same level, as there were 13 new cases in 1960 compared with 14 in 1959.

Malignant Neoplasms caused 3 more deaths than in the previous year giving a death rate of 1.812 per 1,000. The corresponding figure for England and Wales was 2.157.

The large number of improvement grants under the Housing Acts gives cause for considerable satisfaction, representing, as it does, easier working conditions for very many housewives.

I have to acknowledge, with thanks, the assistance received from all departments of the Council and the consideration shown to me by Councillors.

I am,

Mr. Chairman and Councillors,

Your obedient Servant,

**C. B. McGREGOR,**  
**M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.**

Medical Officer of Health  
Urban District of Ashington.

## OFFICERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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Medical Officer of Health .....	CATHERINE B. MCGREGOR, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Assistant Medical Officer .....	KATHLEEN DICK, M.B., B.S., B.Hy., D.P.H.
Public Health Housing      Inspector      .....	G. W. TATE, F.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.
Meat	
Public Health Inspector (Meat) .....	S. MUSK, M.A.P.H.I.
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## SECTION A

### STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

The Registrar-General's estimate of the mid-year population in 1960 shows a decline of 60 as compared with the figure for 1959. There has been no change in the area or boundaries of the Urban District and the main source of employment is still the coal-mining industry.

The improvements in the Hirst Ward have continued steadily, with resulting benefit to the residents and the appearance of that part of the town.

Area in Acres .....	6,057
Registrar-General's estimate of resident population mid-1960 .....	28,150
Rateable Value .....	£289,891
One Penny Rate produces .....	£1,140
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1960) .....	8,740

#### VITAL STATISTICS

(The figures in brackets are the corresponding figures for England and Wales)

##### BIRTHS

Live Births:	Total	Male	Female
Legitimate .....	481	246	235
Illegitimate .....	4	—	4
	<hr/> 485	<hr/> 246	<hr/> 239

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population .....	17.23
(Comparability Factor 0.98) Standard Birth Rate .....	16.89 (17.1)

Still Births:	Total	Male	Female
Legitimate .....	7	3	4
Illegitimate .....	1	1	—
	<hr/> 8	<hr/> 4	<hr/> 4

Rate per 1,000 (live and still) births .....	16.23 (19.7)
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##### DEATHS

Total—314.    Male—172.    Female—142.

Death Rate per 1,000 of the population .....	11.15
Comparability Factor 1.29) Standard Death Rate .....	14.38 (11.5)
Deaths from Puerperal Causes (heading 30 of the Registrar-General's Short List) Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion .....	Nil (0.39)
Rate per 1,000 (live and still) births .....	Nil

	Total	Male	Female
Deaths of Infants under 1 year:	15	7	8
All infants per 1,000 live births .....	30.93 (21.7)		
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births .....	31.19		
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births .....	Nil		

Deaths of infants under 4 weeks of age:	Male	Female
Deaths of infants under 4 weeks of age .....	4	7
Neonatal Death Rate of infants (under 4 weeks of age per 1,000 live births) .....	22.68	

Deaths of Infants under 1 week:	Male	Female
Deaths of infants under 1 week .....	4	4
Early Neonatal Death Rate (Infants under 1 week) .....	16.49	
Perinatal Mortality Rate (Stillbirths and Deaths under 1 week per 1,000 live and still births) .....	32.45	

The Registrar-General supplies the following:

# CAUSES OF DEATH, 1960.

	Male	Female
1. Tuberculosis, Respiratory .....	—	—
2. Tuberculosis (other forms) .....	—	—
3. Syphilitic Disease .....	—	1
4. Diphtheria .....	—	—
5. Whooping Cough .....	—	—
6. Meningococcal Infections .....	—	—
7. Acute Poliomyelitis .....	—	—
8. Measles .....	—	—
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases .....	1	2
10. Malignant Neoplasm, stomach .....	6	6
11. Malignant Neoplasm, lung, bronchus .....	12	1
12. Malignant Neoplasm, breast .....	—	3
13. Malignant Neoplasm, uterus .....	—	1
14. Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms .....	14	6
15. Leukaemia, Aleukaemia .....	1	1
16. Diabetes .....	—	2
17. Vascular Lesions of Nervous System .....	18	24
18. Coronary Disease, Angina .....	45	31
19. Hypertension with Heart Disease .....	3	—
20. Other Heart Diseases .....	23	23
21. Other Circulatory Diseases .....	8	8
22. Influenza .....	—	—
23. Pneumonia .....	2	1
24. Bronchitis .....	9	6
25. Other Diseases of Respiratory System .....	2	5
26. Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum .....	1	—
27. Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea .....	—	—
28. Nephritis and Nephrosis .....	—	2
29. Hyperplasia of prostate .....	2	—
30. Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion .....	—	—
31. Congenital Malformations .....	3	2
32. Other Defined and Ill-defined Diseases .....	16	13
33. Motor Vehicle Accidents .....	1	1
34. All other Accidents .....	3	3
35. Suicide .....	2	—
36. Homicide and Operations of War .....	—	—
	172	142

## CHIEF CAUSES OF DEATH IN ASHINGTON

Causes	Total Number	% of Total Deaths
Diseases of the Heart and Circulation .....	141	44.9
Malignant Neoplasms .....	51	16.24
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System .....	42	13.38
	<u>234</u>	<u>74.52</u>

## INFANTILE MORTALITY, 1960

The following table gives details of the cause of death in the different age-groups during the past year.

Cause of Death	Under 1 day	1 - 6 days	1 - 2 weeks	2 - 3 weeks	3 - 4 weeks	Total under 1 mth	1 - 3 mths	4 - 6 mths	7 - 9 mths	10 - 12 mths	1 - 12 mths	Total under 1 year
Birth Injury .....	—	3	1	1	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	5
Asphyxia Neonatorum ....	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Congenital Abnormality .....	—	2	1	—	—	3	2	—	—	—	—	5
Maldevelopment .....	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Maternal Toxaemia .....	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Suffocation (accident) ....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Pneumonia .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Total	3	5	2	1	—	11	3	—	1	—	—	15

The following table shows the comparative mortality rates during the past 10 years.

	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960
Infantile Deaths under 1 year ...	21	24	20	9	7	14	17	15	11	12	15
Infantile Mortality .....	39.10	45.80	41.75	18.59	15.49	29.55	26.09	33.41	24.83	26.32	30.93



## SECTION B

### GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

#### Laboratory Facilities.

These are provided by the Public Health Laboratory Service at the Newcastle General Hospital and additional facilities are now available at Ashington General Hospital.

The extent to which these facilities have been utilised is shown below.

Specimen sent by	Specimen	Pos.	Neg.
Regional Hospital Board Physician .....	Sputum for B. Tuberculosis .....	10	—
Medical Officer of Health .....	Faeces for pathogenic organisms .....	38	64
General Practitioner .....	Faeces for pathogenic organisms .....	5	2
Medical Officer of Health .....	Faeces for Food Poisoning Organisms	15	4
Medical Officer of Health .....	Faeces for Virus Examination .....	—	2
Medical Officer of Health .....	Urine for pathogenic organisms .....	—	1
General Practitioner .....	Throat Swabs for pathogenic organisms	2	3
There were 8 Sensitivity Tests.		Blood for Complement Fixation Test—1.	

#### Ambulance Service.

This service is provided and maintained by the Northumberland County Council. A 24 hour service is maintained and the provision of radio control has increased the efficiency of the service and reduced the mileage covered by the ambulances.

The Ashington Depot serves Ashington, Newbiggin, Lynemouth, Ellington and Linton.

#### Nursing in the Home.

This service is provided by Northumberland County Council.

#### Hospitals.

The Regional Hospital Board maintains two hospitals in the area: Ashington General Hospital and North Seaton Hospital. Ashington Hospital now draws patients from a much wider area than it did before July 1948.

#### Treatment Centres and Clinics.

The Regional Hospital Board provides a Chest Clinic which is situated in Lintonville Terrace, Ashington.

#### Maternity and Child Welfare Services.

These are provided by Northumberland County Council at the Centre in South View and some additional services are provided at 40 Bolsover Street, Ashington.

Clinics are held at South View as follows:—

Every Monday Morning	—Child Welfare Clinic.
Alternate Monday Afternoons	—Birthday Clinic.
Every Tuesday Morning	—Child Welfare Clinic.
Every Tuesday Afternoon	—Birthday Clinic.
Every Wednesday Morning	—Ante-natal Clinic.
Every Wednesday Afternoon	—Birthday Clinic.
Every Thursday Afternoon	—Child Welfare Clinic.
Every 4th Friday—all day	—Diphtheria Immunisation Sessions.



## SECTION C

### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

#### General Inspection.

Nuisances in the area continue to be abated primarily by Informal Action and in respect of only eight properties had Statutory Notices to be served.

The number of improvement grants under the Housing Act showed a considerable increase, totalling 288, of which 132 were for the improvement of houses owned by the National Coal Board and 110 for the improvement of retired persons cottages owned by the Council.

No further applications for certificates of disrepair under the Rent Act 1957 were received during the year.

The following table summarises the notices served.

Nuisances dealt with and work required to be done	Verbal or Written Notices	Defects Remedied
Insufficient, choked or defective drainage .....	10	30
Defective W.C. basins .....	3	5
Defective W.C. cisterns and service pipes .....	9	11
Defective water supply and lack of internal water supply .....	12	37
Defective sinks and waste pipes and provision for internal water supply .....	6	33
Defective or missing ashbins .....	—	—
Defective roofs .....	8	4
Damp walls .....	18	22
Defective spouts .....	25	17
Defective wallplaster .....	14	10
Defective ceilings .....	4	6
Defective doors, window and floors .....	32	13
Defective ranges, fireplaces and setpot boilers .....	7	7
Defective chimney flues .....	2	3
Defective paving and yard surfaces .....	4	3
Defective outbuildings .....	13	8
Defective food stores .....	1	1
Offensive accumulations .....	4	4
Other defects .....	4	11

#### Water.

The Water supply in the area is by Tynemouth Corporation, drawn from the service reservoir at Hebron, and the whole area is served by public mains direct to the houses.

All standpipes have now been eliminated.

Water samples were taken regularly and totalled 52, results being reported as follows:—

Class 1	Class 2	Class 3	Class 4
27	6	12	7

The increased incidence of unsatisfactory samples during the year was said to be due to the open service reservoir, and some difficulty with the operation of the chlorination plant.

A plan for lining and covering the reservoir is being put forward by the Water Engineer, but will not be practicable until the Coquet Water Board supply is available through a connection to the Ashington trunk main in 1962.

Each adverse sampling report, was immediately reported to the Water Engineer, who at once arranged for the adjustment of the chlorination dose and the flushing of the mains.

The water supply for the area was reasonably adequate, though in certain areas some fall in pressure was experienced at peak periods.

Work is in progress on a new Trunk main, which is expected to eliminate this trouble.

Dealing with houses and flats not provided with an internal piped water supply, complete with sink, we commenced in 1957 to serve notices in batches, at intervals. By the end of 1960, 403 flats and houses had been dealt with and only a very few now remain to be completed.

### **Drainage.**

190 drainage systems were constructed, reconstructed or repaired during the year, and these were all tested and approved by the department. The large amount of new drainage work was mainly due to the number of private and colliery house improvements carried out.

### **Sewerage.**

Arrangements for sewerage and sewage disposal in the district are reasonably adequate at present, with the exception of Woodhorn Village, consisting of about 15 dwellings, which is still without a modern sewage disposal system.

A new scheme has been planned, but has been deferred pending investigations into the future development of the area.

### **Swimming Baths.**

The swimming baths belong to the Ashington Miners Welfare Institute, but are available to the general public as well as to Institute Members, and are open from April to September each year.

The water used is from the main water supply, and is treated by continuous chlorination and continuous filtration.

Five bacteriological samples of the baths water were taken during the year, and all but one were reported to be satisfactory. Regular sampling and testing is also undertaken by the Scientific Department of the National Coal Board in Ashington and copies of the Reports are made available to this department. This co-operation is much appreciated.

### **Schools.**

All schools in the district have a main water supply and a water carriage system.

The new Grammar school was completed during the year and further new schools are contemplated.

### **Cinemas and Public Buildings.**

Routine inspection of all such buildings was carried out during the year.

### **Atmospheric Pollution.**

In many parts of the country, smoke control areas are now in operation, and many more areas are being surveyed and prepared for the complete banishment of smoke emission.

Ashington has as yet, made no purposeful approach to the problem, but it is hoped that the Council will give consideration to the countless benefits of Clean Air, and decide that the time has now arrived for the implementation of the Clean Air Act, 1956.

The Council will shortly be able to ensure, by Byelaw, that only approved appliances capable of burning smokelessly, are provided for heating or cooking in new buildings. We should also ensure that only such approved appliances are installed both in new council houses and older houses where worn-out fireplaces have to be renewed.

The purpose of the Byelaw is not only to facilitate smoke abatement but also to protect the occupier from expenditure when smoke control areas are declared, as no grant will be payable for the conversion of fireplaces in the case of dwellings erected after July 1956. This, of course, will also apply to council owned dwellings.

The trial acre of tree planting on the Washery Heaps has now been shown to be an undoubted success, and while no extension of the scheme has yet been carried out, it is fully expected that with the co-operation of the Area General Manager and his Senior Officials, a further area will be planted in the near future.

The disgusting habit of "accidentally" allowing the chimney of the dwelling house to go on fire still continues, to the unhappy detriment of suffering neighbours, and one feels that the penalty for this action should be severe enough to deter the selfish and anti-social individuals who continue such "accidents".

The monthly report on results from the Deposit Gauge and Lead Peroxide Candles are summarised below.

Month	Rainfall in inches	Total Deposits Tons/Sq. Mile	Millimetres of SO/3 per 100 Sq. Centimetres per day		
			Hirst Park	Memorial Park	Woodhorn Village
January	2.84	29.40	2.15	1.45	1.22
February	1.89	18.31	2.62	1.93	2.15
March	1.42	24.16	1.24	1.76	0.94
April	0.69	15.25	1.46	0.99	1.03
May	2.63	24.23	1.62	0.89	0.72
June	0.69	13.75	0.58	0.42	0.46
July	3.47	14.09	0.87	1.62	0.66
August	2.31	24.50	1.04	0.44	0.60
September	1.58	13.85	1.57	2.16	0.64
October	4.31	24.88	1.12	0.99	1.80
November	2.52	17.39	1.70	1.50	1.94
December	1.58	21.07	1.77	1.22	1.58

### Rodent Control.

Complaints have been comparatively few and were quickly dealt with.

Though allotments and open spaces are constantly surveyed, the general public should be reminded that they are required by Law to notify the local authority immediately, if rats or mice are discovered on their premises. In this way, any infestation can be tackled at an early stage, before it reaches major proportions.

Careless feeding of birds and poultry is still in evidence which invites infestation and hampers treatment.

The following table summarises the work done:—

	L.A.	Dwelling Houses	TYPE OF PROPERTY		Total
			Agricultural Property	All other (inc. Bus. Premises)	
Total number of properties in the district .....	9	8740	27	980	9756
No. inspected because of:					
a) complaint .....	4	37	5	33	79
b) as routine surveys .....	5	21	22	242	290
No. of rat infestations:					
a) Major .....	1	—	3	—	4
b) Minor .....	2	29	3	21	55
No. of mouse infestations:					
a) Major .....	1	—	—	—	1
b) Minor .....	—	11	—	15	26
No. of infested properties treated by Local Authority	4	40	6	36	86

### Burial Grounds.

The question of disposal of the dead remains much the same as for previous years, and there is nothing further to report in this connection.

### Pet Animals Act.

One licence to sell Pet Animals was granted to a stall holder in the closed market.

## PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT.

Year ended 31st December, 1960.

	No. of Inspections during year.	No. of Defects or Contraventions of Byelaws.	No. of Informal Notices served.	Defects remedied by Informal Action.	No. of Statutory Notices served.	Defects remedied by Statutory Action.	Legal Proceedings.
<b>HOUSING</b>							
Structural Defects .....	)	80	52	37	28	24	4
Defective Food Store .....	)	1	1	1	—	—	—
Dampness .....	382)	51	36	23	15	20	—
Overcrowding .....	)	—	—	—	—	—	—
<b>WATER SUPPLY</b>							
Insufficient .....	169)	2	1	8	1	8	—
Unsatisfactory .....	)	6	4	10	2	9	—
<b>DRAINAGE</b>							
Insufficient .....	260)	1	—	8	1	5	—
Defective .....	)	5	3	10	2	5	—
<b>SANITARY CONVENIENCES</b>							
Insufficient .....	42)	—	—	—	—	—	—
Defective .....	)	14	8	6	6	8	—
<b>GENERAL</b>							
Food Premises .....	391	41	—	64	—	—	—
Dairies .....	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
Slaughterhouses .....	635	55	—	37	—	—	—
Tents, Vans, etc. ....	4	2	—	2	—	—	—
Offensive Trades .....	24	3	—	3	—	—	—
Factories and Workplaces .....	167	8	—	8	—	—	—
Keeping of Animals .....	6	3	—	3	—	—	—
Insanitary Ashpits and Bins .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Offensive Accumulations .....	4	2	—	2	—	—	—
Smoke Nuisances .....	20	6	—	6	—	—	—
<b>TOTALS</b> .....	2107	280	105	228	55	79	4

## FACTORIES ACTS 1937 to 1948.

There are 123 factories and workshops in the district. The following table gives details of inspections made and defects found during the year under review.

There are no outworkers in the district.

### 1. INSPECTIONS

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
i Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by L.A. ....	36	40	—	—
ii Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority .....	76	79	—	—
iii Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises) .....	11	14	—	—
Total .....	123	133	—	—

### 2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Particulars	No. of cases in which defects were found				No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness .....	2	2	—	—	—
Overcrowding .....	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature .....	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation .....	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors .....	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences—					
(a) Insufficient .....	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective .....	3	3	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes .....	1	1	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) .....	—	—	—	—	—
Total .....	6	6	—	—	—



## SECTION D

### TABULAR STATEMENT OF HOUSING FOR THE YEAR 1960.

#### Houses completed during the year:

(a) By Local Authority .....	90
(b) By other Bodies or Persons .....	23

#### Closing and Demolition.

1. Houses demolished in Clearance Areas .....	Nil
2. Houses demolished not in Clearance Areas .....	Nil
3. Houses closed, not demolished .....	3
4. Any other houses permanently discontinued as dwellings and not included in above .....	Nil

#### Repairs. Houses made fit by procedure under either Housing or Public Health Acts.

1. By informal action .....	33
2. By owners, following statutory notice .....	18
3. By Local Authority in default of owners .....	Nil
4. Demolition Orders revoked after reconstruction .....	Nil

#### Houses Patched.

1. Houses in Clearance Areas retained for temporary accommodation .....	Nil
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#### Improvement Grants, Housing Act, 1949.

##### Discretionary Grants.

No. of separate  
Houses

1. Applications submitted to Local Authority during year .....	289
2. Applications rejected .....	1
3. Applications approved .....	288
4. Approximate average grant per house .....	£170
5. Total number of applications approved since inception of scheme .....	776

##### Standard Grants.

1. Number of separate houses for which grants were made during the year .....	2
2. Number of houses provided with:—	
1) Bath or shower .....	Nil
2) Wash hand basin .....	Nil
3) Hot water supply .....	Nil
4) Water closet .....	2
5) Food store .....	1

## SECTION E

### INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

#### Ice Cream.

Seven premises in the area are registered for the manufacture of ice-cream though in only five of these was ice cream manufactured during the year.

They have all been inspected regularly, and found to comply with the Ice-cream (Heat Treatment etc.) Regulations, 1959 and with the Food Hygiene Regulations.

During the year 26 samples of ice-cream were taken and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory. Reports were returned as follows:—

Grade 1—19 samples	Grade 2— 5 samples
Grade 3— 2 samples	Grade 4— nil

#### Food Shops and Food Preparing Premises.

The number of food premises by type in the area is as follows:—

Confectionery .....	16
Grocers and General .....	108
Butchers .....	26
Greengrocery .....	16
Bakery .....	13
Temperance Bars .....	9
Fish (Wet) .....	2
Fish and Chips .....	11
Cafes .....	2

Three premises were registered as dairies, 74 persons registered as distributors of milk, and 82 licences were issued to milk dealers, including one supplementary licence.

108 premises are registered for the sale or manufacture of ice-cream, and 32 for the manufacture of sausage, preserved food etc., of which 8 premises are registered for both purposes.

391 visits to food premises were made during the year and 41 contraventions of the Food Hygiene Regulations were found. 64 such contraventions were found to be remedied, some of these having been drawn to the notice of the occupiers during the previous year.

Food Hygiene Standards are still quite high, with, generally, only minor contraventions of regulations being found, and these are quickly remedied.

#### Food Complaints.

Foods reported to us as being unfit for human consumption or containing foreign matter were:

Mouldy Sausage Rolls.  
Flour Beetle in Bread Bun.  
Mouldy Meat Pasty.  
Mouldy Cream Trifle.

The shopkeeper selling the mouldy sausage rolls was prosecuted, and was fined £5.

The owners of the canteen selling the bread bun containing the flour beetle were also prosecuted, resulting in the Baker who supplied the bread bun to the canteen, being fined £5.

In the case of the mouldy meat pasty, in view of the difficulty in deciding whether it was the baker or shopkeeper who was at fault, both parties were cautioned.

In the case of the mouldy cream trifle, the complainant was not prepared to give evidence, and in view of this and the fact that no previous complaint had been received against the baker, the baker was merely cautioned.



## Food and Drugs.

Regular samples of food and drugs have been taken in the district by the Northumberland County Council and submitted to the Public Analyst.

Details of these samples have been kindly provided by Mr. C. J. Arlidge, Chief County Weights and Measures Inspector, showing that 279 samples of milk and miscellaneous foods were taken during the year. One sample of milk was found to contain 11% of extraneous water, but from a number of formal samples taken from the same source during succeeding weeks, no further adulteration was detected.

Four samples of food were found to be unsatisfactory and representations were made to the manufacturers by the Chief County Weights and Measures Inspector, resulting in action being taken to prevent any recurrence.

## Meat and Other Foods.

The four slaughterhouses in the area were still operating and were granted a renewal of licence for a further twelve months.

Owners of all four slaughterhouses were prepared to bring their premises up to the standard of the Slaughterhouses (Hygiene) Regulations 1958.

Our Slaughterhouse report was submitted to the Minister in September, and recommended 1st March, 1961 as the "appointed day" for the district.

Number of Animals Slaughtered during the year:—

	Bullocks	Heifers	Cows	Bulls	Calves	Pigs	Sheep
Normal Kill .....	749	643	33	—	3	1126	3134
Casualties .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	8
Totals .....	749	643	33	—	3	1126	3142

Meat and other Organs Condemed, Surrendered and Destroyed.

### For Tuberculosis.

Bovine.		Swine.	
Heads and Tongues .....	3	Heads .....	18
Lungs .....	6		
Livers .....	2		
Mesenteries .....	1		
Gut .....	1		
Tripes .....	1		
Beef .....	381 lbs.		

### For Other Defined Diseases.

Bovine.		Swine.	
Heads and Tongues .....		C. Bovis 2; Actinobacillosis 2; Abscesses 1.	
Lungs .....		Pleurisy 2; Parasites 7; Abscesses 6; Pentastomes 4.	
Livers .....		Cirrhosis (whole) 28, (part) 354; Abscesses 26; Hydatids 1; Perihepatitis 1.	
Hearts .....		C. Bovis 1. Pericarditis 2.	
Skirts .....		Abscesses 3; Inflammation 1.	
Mesenteries .....		Pentastomes 2.	
Beef .....		Bruising 20 lbs.	
Sheep.		Swine.	
Lungs .....		Pneumonia 9; Pleurisy 2.	
Livers .....		Parasites 4; Abscesses 3.	
Mutton .....		Bruising 29 lbs. Abscesses 4 lbs.	
Swine.		Swine.	
Lungs .....		Pneumonia 52; Pleurisy 25.	
Livers .....		Perihepatitis 8; Parasites 19.	
Hearts .....		Pericarditis 30.	
Kidneys .....		Cysts 1.	

## Carcases and Offal Inspected and Condemned in Whole or in Part.

	Cattle exc. Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
No. killed and inspected.	1392	33	3	3142	1126
<b>All Diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci.</b>					
Whole Carcases condemned .....	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned .....	79	5	—	14	101
Percentage affected with disease other than Tuberculosis or Cysticerci .....	5.7	15.2	—	0.4	8.9
<b>Tuberculosis Only.</b>					
Whole Carcases condemned .....	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned .....	7	—	—	—	15
Percentage affected with Tuberculosis .....	0.5	—	—	—	1.3
<b>Cysticercosis.</b>					
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned .....	3	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned .....	—	—	—	—	—

## Other Foods.

The following foods were found to be unfit and were condemned and destroyed.

Canned Goods .....	773 tins	Bacon .....	275 lbs.
Cheese .....	1 lb.	Sausage .....	11 lbs.
Potatoes .....	128 stones	Meat .....	267 lbs.

Disposal of unfit food is carried out according to circumstances and its character. Tinned Meat, where suitable, is used as rat bait.

Other foods are burned, when suitable arrangements can be made, or buried, or when suitable, used for pig food.

## SECTION F

### PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Hospital accommodation for cases of infectious disease is provided by the Regional Hospital Board at Walkergate Hospital, Newcastle.

#### UNDER AGE GROUPS

Disease	Under 1 year	1—2 years	3—4 years	5—9 years	10—14 years	15—24 years	25—34 years	35—44 years	45—54 years	55—64 years	65—74 years	75 years & over	Total
Dysentery ....	1	6	2	8	1	—	4	—	—	1	1	—	24
Scarlet Fever ....	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Pneumonia ....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	5	1	—	9
Measles ....	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Whooping Cough ....	1	1	1	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6
TOTAL	3	10	3	11	1	—	4	1	2	6	2	—	43

#### Sonne Dysentery

The twenty-four notified cases of this disease affected nine households and occurred somewhat sporadically throughout the year, but, again, probably do not represent the number of cases which actually occurred.

In February 7 cases came to light and of these 4 were in one family and 2 in the adjoining house. In March 3 cases occurred in one family and 2 in another, where 2 carriers were also discovered. The three cases which occurred in April were all members of one family in which there was a symptomless carrier.

No further cases were notified until October when there were four, of whom 3 were members of one family and the fourth occurred in a house where two carriers were discovered. In December there were two cases in each of two households.

This disease is not, as a rule, serious, but it can cause a lot of inconvenience and is extremely difficult to control owing to its high rate of infectivity and the fact that, by reason of its mildness, it infects many individuals who produce no symptoms and are unaware of their infectious state.

## **Diphtheria**

For 11 consecutive years there has been no case of this disease in Ashington and no death has occurred in the past 14 years.

## **Diphtheria Immunisation**

During the year 369 pre-school and 165 school children completed a primary course of treatment, while 291 pre-school and 697 school children received re-inforcing injections.

At 31st December, 1960, it was estimated that the immunity indices for the different age-groups were as follows:—

Children under 1 year .....	20.7
Children aged 1-4 years .....	71.56
Children aged 5-14 years .....	72.13
All children under 15 years ...	69.36

As predicted in the report for 1959, there was a substantial rise in the index for school children, in 1960, and the above figures are quite satisfactory, although there is room for further improvement.

## **Poliomyelitis Vaccination**

This campaign slackened very considerably in 1960, and during the year 2,371 persons completed the primary course of two injections, while 4,766 received a third injection. The comparative figures for 1959 were 7,918 and 9,386 respectively.

From the commencement of the campaign up to 31.12.60 21,775 persons had received two injections and 17,559 had received three injections.

These figures refer to the whole of the Central Area of the Country, as separate figures are not available for the Ashington Urban District.

## TUBERCULOSIS

### New Cases and Mortality during 1960

Age Groups	NEW CASES					DEATHS				
	Resp.		Non-Resp.			Resp.		Non-Resp.		
	M	F	M	F	Total	M	F	M	F	Total
Under 1 year ....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 - 4 years ....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 - 14 years ....	—	—	1	1	2	—	—	—	—	—
15 - 24 years ....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25 - 34 years ....	—	1	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	—
35 - 44 years ....	1	2	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—
45 - 54 years ....	2	2	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—
55 - 64 years ....	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
65 - 74 years ....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
75 years and over ....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total ....	5	5	1	2	13	—	—	—	—	—

During 1960 13 new cases of Tuberculosis were notified, 10 respiratory and 3 non-respiratory. This is a decrease of two in the number of cases of respiratory disease and an increase of one in the number of non-respiratory cases.

There was no death from any form of Tuberculosis.

The death rate for respiratory tuberculosis in England and Wales was 0.068 per 1,000.

## MALIGNANT NEOPLASMS.

Site	MALES						FEMALES					
	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-74	75+	Total	25-34	45-54	55-64	65-74	75+	Total
Mouth ....	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pharynx ....	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Breast ....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	3
Lung and Bronchus ....	1	2	4	5	—	12	—	1	—	—	—	1
Mediastinum ....	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Stomach ....	—	—	4	3	—	7	—	—	2	2	3	7
Pancreas ....	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gall-bladder ....	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Colon ....	—	1	—	1	1	3	—	—	—	—	1	1
Rectum ....	—	—	1	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	1	1
Anus ....	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
† ladder ....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	2
Pelvis ....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Suprarenal ....	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Haematopoietic System	—	1	—	1	1	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised ....	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
	1	4	9	12	8	34	1	3	5	3	5	17

### Malignant Neoplasms

The total number of deaths from Malignant Neoplasms was 51, an increase of 3 over the number in 1959. There were 12 male deaths from Cancer of the lung, a decrease of 1, and there was 1 female death.

### Malignant Neoplasms of the Lung and Bronchus

Death Rate in Ashington .....	0.462 per 1,000
Death Rate in England and Wales .....	0.481 per 1,000

### Malignant Neoplasms of All Other Sites

Death Rate in Ashington .....	1.35 per 1,000
Death Rate in England and Wales .....	1.676 per 1,000

### Malignant Neoplasms of All Sites

Total Death Rate in Ashington .....	1.812 per 1,000
Total Death Rate in England and Wales ...	2.157 per 1,000







